



National Weather Service

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



April 1997

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons Killed	Number of Persons Injured	Estimated Damage Property	Estimated Damage Crops	Character of Storm
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MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

MNZ058>059-066-068 Meeker - Wright - Mcleod - Carver

01	0000CST	0	0	Flood
24	0700CST			

The south fork of the Crow River reached flood stage of 8 feet at Delano on 3/31/97 which is the river monitoring point. The river crested on 4/8/97 at 14.4 feet which was the third highest crest ever measured. 20 roads in McLeod county were closed at the peak of river flooding including highway 22 between Biscay and Glencoe. Major flooding along the river occurred in the towns of Hutchinson, Mayer, and New Germany. The flooding of Buffalo Creek in the Glencoe area aggravated the problem in McLeod county.

MNZ073

Redwood

01	0000CST	0	0	Flood
14	0700CST			

The Redwood River reached flood stage on 3/27/97. Flood stage is 6 feet. The river rose to 16 feet on 3/29/97, setting a new record crest level. The river is measured in Redwood Falls. Above normal temperatures the last two weeks of March in combination with a deep Winter snowcover and heavy rainfall on 4/5/97 contributed to the record crest

MNZ073>074

Redwood - Brown

01	0000CST	0	0	Flood
13	0700CST			

The Cottonwood River measured at New Ulm reached flood stage of 11 feet on 3/23/97. The river crested at 18.8 feet on 3/30/97 which was the fourth highest crest ever measured. The river subsided to below flood stage on 4/13/97.

MNZ041>045-047>050-054>058-064>067 Douglas - Todd - Morrison - Mille Lacs - Kanabec - Stevens - Pope - Stearns - Benton - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Meeker - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Sibley

01	0000CST	0	0	Flood
10	0600CST			

Above normal temperatures during the last week of March began melting a deep snowcover across much of west central into parts of central Minnesota. Snow depth rank was in the 80 to 90th percentile over the area as measured on 3/20/97. The snowcover had a high moisture content. In addition, several storms deposited additional rain and snow over the area on 3/24/97 and 4/5/97. The flooding resulted in severe losses to both public and private property. Damage was extensive to roads, bridges, culverts, agricultural drainage areas, homes and businesses. House flooding was reported in Osakis, Brandon, Wood Lake, Danube, Bird Island and near Little Rock Lake. Drainage ditches and culverts plugged with snow and ice resulted in sporadic flooding including the community center in the southern part of Bird Island. Scattered road closures were a result of the spring thaw as well. Many smaller rivers also overflowed their banks resulting in road closures and structural flooding. The Long Prairie River in Todd and Morrison counties closed 14 roadways. The Pomme de Terre River rose to 16 feet over flood stage on 4/6/97 resulting in major damage to roadways throughout Swift and Stevens counties. Bridges were washed out in Appleton. 16 houses were evacuated in Appleton as well. Highway 59 closed north of Morris. Widespread flooding was reported in Lac Qui Parle county due to the spring thaw as well as the Lac Qui Parle River over flowing its banks. Many roads were closed and a large number of homes in Dawson were surrounded by water. The Sauk River in Stearns county overflowed its banks on 4/3/97 flooding homes along Highway 22. Highway 22 was closed for a time between Eden Valley and Richmond. Ice chunks 2 feet thick and 10 to 20 feet across, washed out or closed five bridges in Sibley county over the Rush River. Telephone service was interrupted for a time due to a fiber optic cable attached to one bridge.

MNZ054>056-060-064>065-067>070-073-075>076-083 Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Hennepin - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Sibley - Carver - Scott - Dakota - Redwood - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Blue Earth

01	0000CST	0	0	Flood
30	2359CST			



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		Local/ Standard	Length (Miles)	Width (Yards)	Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

The Minnesota River reached flood stage at Henderson on 3/15/97 and continued to slowly rise through the last half of March, peaking at many locations by mid April. The river remained above flood stage until mid May. Flood stage of the River in Montevideo was 14 feet which was reached on 4/2/97. The river crested at 23.9 feet on 4/7/97 establishing a new record crest in Montevideo. Other monitoring points along the Minnesota River reached crests that were at 3rd or 4th all time record levels, including Mankato, Henderson, Jordan, Shakopee and Savage. Minnesota River flooding resulted in severe losses to public and private property. An early Spring storm brought heavy rain, snow and high winds to the area on 4/5-6/97 at the peak of the flooding, severely aggravating the situation. Many roads were closed in the Montevideo and Granite Falls areas. Firefly Creek Casino closed due to lack of road access. Yellow Medicine county museum flooded on 4/5/97. Sanitary sewer lift station failed in Montevideo causing sewage to backup into homes. 400 residents were evacuated. Up to 150 homes in Montevideo reported flooding to some degree. Sewer backups also reported in Watson and Clarkfield. Highway 212 bridge collapsed west of Granite Falls. All county and township roads in Lac Qui Parle county were closed to unnecessary travel for a time. 15 to 20 percent of tillable land in Lac Qui Parle county under water by 4/10/97. Greater than 60 homes evacuated in Granite Falls. Flood waters knocked out Granite Falls water treatment plant, forcing water rationing. Schools were closed in districts close to the Minnesota River. Hawk Creek, a tributary of the Minnesota River caused a basement to collapse in Clara City. Dairy farmers forced to dump milk due to inability to get trucks to farms. At one point, only one bridge (Highway 4 in Fairfax) spanning the Minnesota River was still open between Mankato and the South Dakota border.

A 60 foot section of county highway 1 was washed away in Renville county. The water level reached the tops of kitchen counters at a farmstead in Renville county. Grain elevator in New Ulm received substantial damage. 20 farms and 5 residences hit hard by flooding in New Ulm area. Numerous roads between New Ulm and St. Peter closed, including highway 169 north of Mankato. Roadways closed in Le Sueur, Sibley, Carver and Scott counties. Several metro area commuter roads closed including highway 101 in Chanhassen, highway 41 in Chaska and the Black Dog Road off ramp from Interstate 35 in Burnsville.

MNZ059>060

Wright - Hennepin

04	0600CST	0	0	Flood
20	0600CST			

Crow River reached flood stage of 10 feet on 4/4/97 at Rockford which is the river monitoring point. The river crested at 14.4 feet on 4/9/97 which was the fifth highest crest ever recorded. The river subsided to below flood stage on 4/20/97. Substantial flooding occurred at a golf course in the town of St. Michael.

MNZ043-049>051-
059>063-070

Morrison - Stearns - Benton - Sherburne - Wright - Hennepin - Anoka - Ramsey - Washington - Dakota

04	0600CST	0	0	Flood
26	0600CST			

The Mississippi River is monitored at various points including Red Wing, Anoka, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Hastings. The river reached flood stage at most locations around 4/7/97 and crested between 4/10/97 and 4/13/97. The measured crest was the third highest in recorded history at St. Paul, Hastings and Red Wing. The River Terrace Mobile Home park in Monticello was evacuated on 4/4/97. 40 residential homes also evacuated in Monticello. Multiple road closures reported in Wright county. The floodwaters accelerated erosion in Clear Lake. Travelers Country Club lost 50 feet of shore forcing owners to permanently move trailers and sheds. Dikes held in Elk River but soil saturation resulted in one basement collapse on Parrish Ave. River Park in Brooklyn Park and Riverview Heights Park in Fridley both inundated by floodwater. The Rum River, a tributary of the Mississippi, flooded homes in the town of Ramsey on 4/8/97. The Rum crested 2.5 feet above flood stage on 4/9/97. Low lying parking lots near downtown St. Paul flooded. Locks and Dams from St. Paul to Red Wing closed from 4/4/97 to 4/9/97. Minor flooding reported in Dayton, Champlin and Brooklyn Center. Harriet Island, Raspberry Island and Lilydale Park closed in St. Paul area due to floodwaters. Three quarters of Holman Field (South St. Paul Municipal Airport) under water by 4/9/97. Shepard Road under water in south St. Paul. Fort Snelling state park bordering Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport closed. Lake Rebecca in east Hastings contaminated because of Mississippi floodwaters. 16 homes flooded in Green Point subdivision of Wacouta in eastern Goodhue county. More mobile homes evacuated in Old Frontenac. The river was closed to boating during the peak flooding.

MNZ053-063

Chisago - Washington

06	0600CST	0	0	Flood
20	0600CST			

The St. Croix River reached flood stage of 87 feet on 4/6/97 and crested at 90.5 feet on 4/12/97. This was the third highest crest



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MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

ever measured. The river is monitored in Stillwater. The river fell below flood stage on 4/20/97. The Stillwater lift bridge was closed on 4/5/97 and reopened 4/18/97. More than 30 homes damaged by flooding in Bayport on Point Road, Lakeside Street and Minnesota Street. Street flooding also reported in Hudson. Lakefront Park in Hudson was inundated. Highway 10 between Prescott Wisconsin and far southern Denmark township in Washington county remained open due to slightly lower than anticipated crest and tenacious efforts by the Minnesota and Wisconsin Department of Transportation workers in building sand and gravel dikes.

MNZ047-054>057-
064>066-073>077-
082>085-091>093

Stevens - Lac Qui Parle - Swift - Chippewa - Kandiyohi - Yellow Medicine - Renville - Mcleod - Redwood - Brown - Nicollet - Le Sueur - Rice - Watonwan - Blue Earth - Waseca - Steele - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn

06 0700CST 0 0 High Wind (51)
07 0300CST

The combination of falling snow and strong gradient winds resulted in frequent white out conditions while an intense spring storm moved across northern Minnesota. Visibilities were frequently at or below one quarter mile. A wind gust to 51 knots was recorded at New Ulm while winds of 35 to 50 knots were common. The whiteout conditions resulted in multiple vehicular accidents on Interstate 35 in Rice and Steele counties. Interstate 35 was closed in both direction for several hours. Trees were knocked over in Dawson and empty chemical storage tanks were blown over in Raymond

WISCONSIN, West

WIZ025>028

Dunn - Pepin - Chippewa - Eau Claire

03 0600CST 0 0 Flood
10 0600CST

The Chippewa River reached flood stage of 11 feet on 4/4/97 and crested at 13.0 feet on 4/7/97. Highway 178 was closed in Chippewa county between county road Y in Jim Falls and the city of Cornell. Several roads were closed in southern Dunn county in Peru and Spring Brook townships. A portion of Main street in Durand was flooded for a time.

WIZ024-026

Pierce - Pepin

04 0600CST 0 0 Flood
26 0600CST

The Mississippi River is monitored at Hastings and Red Wing from the intersection with the St. Croix River south to Lake Pepin. The river reached flood stage around 4/4/97 and crested around 4/13/97. The peak crest measured at Red Wing was 17.2 feet which was the third highest crest ever measured. The Mississippi fell back to below flood stage by the last week of April. Two dozen homes were evacuated in the seasonal village of Deer Island, between Pepin and Stockholm. The river crested at 18.3 feet at Pepin on 4/12/97. Locks and Dams from St. Paul to Red Wing were closed between 4/4/97 and 4/9/97. Highway 63 between Red Wing and Hager City kept open due to slightly lower than expected crests and tenacious Wisconsin and Minnesota Department of Transportation workers building sand and gravel dikes. Many homes on Lake Street in Prescott received heavy flooding while numerous roads from Prescott to Lake Pepin under water. Water reached roofs in Bay City.

WIZ014-023>024

Polk - St. Croix - Pierce

06 0600CST 0 0 Flood
20 0600CST

The St. Croix River reached flood stage of 87 feet on 4/6/97 and crested at 90.5 feet on 4/12/97. This was the third highest crest ever measured. The river is monitored in Stillwater Minnesota. The river fell below flood stage on 4/20/97. The Stillwater lift bridge was closed on 4/5/97 and reopened 4/18/97. Landing Park in Osceola was inundated by flooding. The river crested at 690.5 feet in Hudson which was also the 3rd highest level recorded. Street flooding was also reported in Hudson and Lakefront Park was inundated. Highway 10 between Prescott Wisconsin and far southern Denmark township in Washington county remained open due to slightly lower than anticipated crest and tenacious efforts by the Minnesota and Wisconsin Department of Transportation workers in building sand and gravel dikes. Many homes on Lake Street in Prescott experienced heavy flooding